

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

20 JUN 2005

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PCT/GB03/5587

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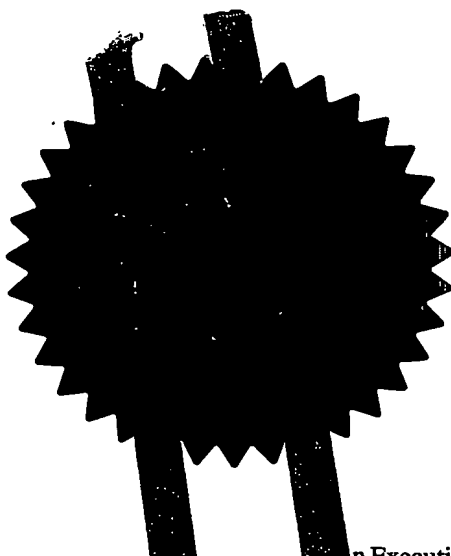
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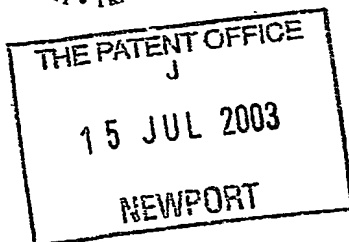




15 JUL 03 0822561-3 000350
P01/7700 0.00-0316463.9

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)



The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

1. Your reference

BQ/PM/P/24105.GB

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0316463.9

15 JUL 2003

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

IGT-UK LIMITED,
MARGARET STREET,
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE,
LANCASHIRE.
OL7 0QQ.

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

UNITED KINGDOM

4. Title of the invention

ENTERTAINMENT MACHINES

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

WILSON GUNN M'CAW,
41-51 ROYAL EXCHANGE,
CROSS STREET,
MANCHESTER,
M2 7BD.

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

7153927001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

YES

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description 4

Claim(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s)

1 + 1

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature *Wilson*

Date 14/07/03

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom Mr. B. Quest - 0161-827-9400

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Notes

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ENTERTAINMENT MACHINES

This invention relates to player-operable coin-operated gaming machines. As used herein the term coin is intended also to cover notes, tokens, charge or credit cards or any other means of supplying credit or monetary value.

In accordance with the invention of earlier patent application GB 0229968.3 there is provided a player-operable coin operated gaming machine of the kind having a main display device operable in play of a main game for displaying a selected combination of symbols at a win zone, which device has a plurality of symbol sequences which index through the win zone to provide a moving symbol display and then come to rest to cause the selected combination of symbols to be displayed, and wherein bonus events are made available on at least some occasions in relation to said main games, characterised in that said bonus events influence determination of said predetermined winning combinations, and when made available at least one of said bonus events is player-selectable from a range of such events to be effective for a plurality of games.

With this arrangement the player can derive much entertainment from the ability to select bonus events and thereby plan a strategy effective over a number of games.

However, much entertainment is also derived from the change in bonus events effective over multiple games.

According to the present invention therefore there is provided a

player-operable coin operated gaming machine of the kind having a main display device operable in play of a main game for displaying a selected combination of symbols at a win zone, which device has a plurality of symbol sequences which index through the win zone to provide a moving
5 symbol display and then come to rest to cause the selected combination of symbols to be displayed, and wherein bonus events are made available on at least some occasions in relation to said main games, characterised in that said bonus events influence determination of said predetermined winning combinations, and when made available at least one of said
10 bonus events is machine-selectable from a range of such events to be effective for a plurality of games.

With this arrangement, when the bonus events are made available the machine operates automatically to select at least one bonus event. This gives rise to changes in bonus events and consequent enhanced
15 entertainment to the player even though the selection is made by the machine and not the player.

Selection of at least one bonus event from the range of such events most preferably occurs in correspondence with operation of a display device which provides a moving display which comes to rest to
20 indicate the selected bonus event. In particular the display device may comprise a real or video-simulated rotatable reel having the bonus events around its periphery.

The nature of the bonus events, the number of games for which

the selected bonus event is maintained, and the main display device may be as described in the aforesaid earlier application.

The invention will now be described further by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawing which shows a
5 diagrammatic front elevation of one form of a gaming machine according to the invention.

The gaming machine is a slot machine with a housing 1 with a front wall 2 having a main display panel 3, a coin slot 4, operating
10 buttons 5, and a pay out opening 6.

The main display panel 3 defines a window 7 through which can be
15 seen symbol-bearing peripheries of three side-by-side reels 8 which are rotatably mounted about a common horizontal axis.

A further symbol-bearing rotatable reel 9 can be seen through a
further window 10.

15 In play of a game, after establishing credit, the reels 8 rotate and come to rest to display a combination of symbols on a win line in the window 7.

On occasions, when a special 'bonus event' symbol is displayed on one of the reels 8 on the win line a bonus event selection procedure is
20 triggered. This causes the fourth reel 9 to rotate and then come to rest with one of the symbols on the reel 9 displayed through the window 7. -

The symbols on the reel 9 represent bonus events, from a range of different such events, such as "all wins doubled" etc. This automatically

selected bonus event now applies for a predetermined number of games, say ten games. That is, the player can now play ten games, after inserting adequate credit for ten games, and in each game the selected bonus event applies. At the end of the ten games, the bonus event no longer applies. A counter 11 decrements during game play.

Other features described in the earlier patent application can be combined with the present invention as appropriate.

It is of course to be understood that the invention is not intended to be restricted to the details of the above embodiment which are described by way of example only.

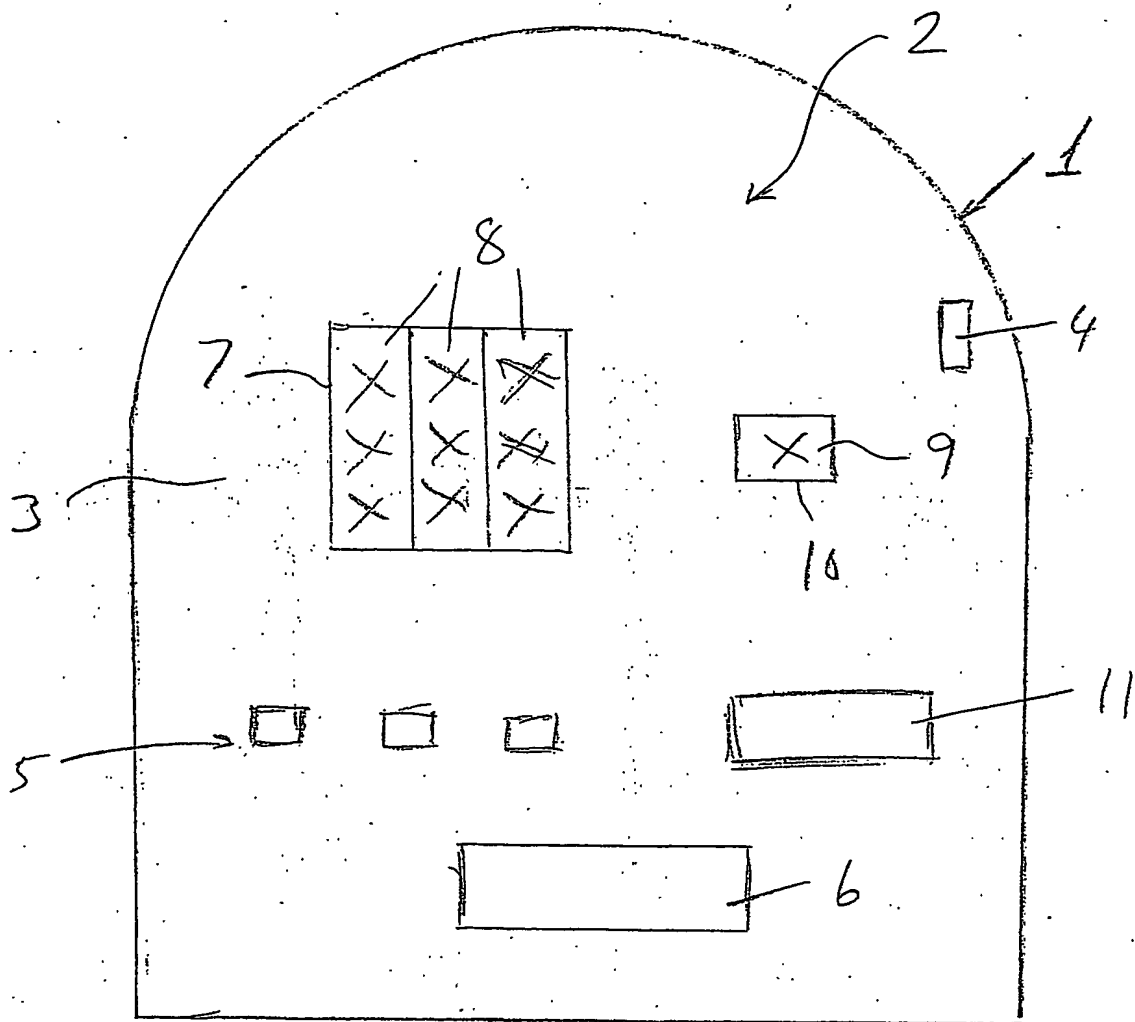


FIG 1

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